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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 20 February 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 20 February 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the arbitral decision on Brcko (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 56, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the
United Nations

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ANNEX

Statement issued on 20 February 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the arbitral decision on Brcko

The arbitral decision on Brcko of 14 February is to fill the last gap left open in the peace agreement. The decision sets in motion a process which should, in time, help to heal the wounds of war.

The European Union and its member States will give all possible assistance to the High Representative and his deputy fro Brcko in guiding this process and implementing the goals outlined in the arbitral decision.

Of particular importance in the process are:

(a) The principle of freedom of movement;

(b) The implementation of the results of the local elections this summer;

(c) The principle of return of displaced persons and refugees.

The full cooperation of all Bosnian parties will be essential to the success of this process.

It will also need the support of the international community in terms of both personnel and finances. Assistance in the fields of police, economic reconstruction and housing is of particular importance.